Prestbury C E (Aided) Primary School

Let your light shine…

***Safeguarding*:**
Anti-Bullying Policy

Approved by Governing Body: October 2011

To be reviewed: October 2012

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Mission Statement

'Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5v16

Prestbury Church of England Primary School is a place where the Christian message is both celebrated and lived out in our day-to-day interactions with one another. It is a place where not only does the light of the Good News shine but also where the light of knowledge and the individual light of each child and their unique gifts and talents shine bright.

As a Church of England school we aim to ensure that Prestbury Church of England Primary School is a place where each child feels safe, is valued and respected as a unique individual, where hard work and achievement are celebrated, children are encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle and there are opportunities for each child to make a positive contribution.

At the core of our curriculum is the development of the key skills required to lead a successful life. These skills are developed in a context where the children encounter a wide range of experiences and their eyes are opened to the awe, wonder and amazement of God's creation.

The Governors, Staff and School Council (pupils) have signed up to the Anti-Bullying charter to signal their determination that bullying is dealt with quickly when and if it occurs and to ensure that processes are in place to minimise bullying and to maximise co-operation, understanding, tolerance and patience in our school community.

The school follows-up all reported incidents including those where race or disability may be a focus of the bullying. Bullying can occur in any situation in which more than one person is present. It is symptomatic of an imbalance of power, is always deliberate and repetitive and results in pain and distress. It can take many forms but the main types are:

- physical (hitting, kicking, taking belongings)
- verbal (name-calling, insulting)
- indirect (spreading nasty stories about someone, excluding someone from social groups).

Aims

In our school we aim to create an atmosphere of tolerance, care and respect for each other. Our approach to the development of a caring and considerate school will promote behaviour characterised by:

- trust
- consideration
- co-operation
- care
- honesty

- sharing
- respect
- good manners

Preventative measures

- promotion of a caring community
- rewards for acceptable behaviour
- verbal praise/constructive criticism
- non-confrontational practices
- clear, fair, enforceable rules
- consistency of staff approach
- clear sanctions
- inclusion of parents at an early stage
- helping children understand- ownership of their own behaviour
- targeting of behaviour
- discussion in class/assemblies about possible consequences
- discussion about how to report bullying.
- Focus on National Anti-Bullying week each year with associated activities

In our school we cultivate a caring ethos on a daily basis through Christian based assemblies. Themes such as friendship, conflict, power and trust can be used as a basis for follow up class discussions. Circle time and PSHE sessions also help to raise awareness amongst pupils which challenges bullying behaviour, increases understanding for bullied pupils and helps build an anti-bullying ethos in the school.

Dealing with incidents of bullying

- All reported incidents are taken seriously.
- All incidents of bullying are investigated and dealt with immediately.
- In the first instance we deal with the child who is bullying and the child who is being bullied separately.
- We bear in mind the needs of the different groups.
- We clarify the facts and evidence by involving and interviewing any witnesses.
- Following these stages we decide on the appropriate action. These would include any number of the following :
  apologies, sanctions (in line with the school's discipline policy), informing parents, curriculum lessons (PSHE).
- We believe that the action taken must meet the needs of the victim and seek to change the behaviour of the bully.
- If necessary a follow up meeting with parents is arranged to report on progress.
- All relevant staff are informed of the incident and the action taken.
- A record of the incident must be kept.:

The adult recording the incident or events in writing should clarify the facts from each child involved, scribing this using the child's own words.
The report is placed on file within school.
A record of the school's response must be made (to help with proceedings and to protect the school from possible future legal action).

If the matter is more than an isolated incident, is a single serious matter or there is a recurrence of bullying behaviour, the parents of all parties should be informed in writing. These letters should contain detailed accounts.
If necessary the parents/carers of all parties should all be asked to come into school to discuss the matter.

This policy underpins the school's commitment to its statutory duties and obligations under The Education Act 2002, The Children Act 2004, Working Together to Safeguard Children *(2006), and the Local Authority's Children & Young People's Plan 2008-11.*